

Proper Etiquette for Soccer Spectators

What is the EYSA Philosophy?

The Erie Youth Soccer Association is a volunteer organization with the primary objective to bring summer soccer to as many participants as possible. Our Association promotes the teaching of soccer to our youngsters in an atmosphere that is noncompetitive, fun and helps our participants become the best they can be. We do not honor individuals or teams in our Association. We encourage you to support all players efforts and to promote good sportsmanship and fair team play.

Before and After the Game

The fields EYSA plays its games on are graciously donated by many of the schools and municipalities throughout Erie County, and as such we must ALL remember that we are guests at these facilities.

- OBSERVE ALL PARKING SIGNS, only park in designated areas. Fire lanes, loading docks, grassy areas, sidewalks, etc. are not for parking. EYSA has been notified that any illegal parking may result in the offending cars being towed.
- If you make a mess, please place your trash in the appropriate receptacle, or take the trash with you if no receptacle is available at the field.
- NOT ALL FIELDS ALLOW PETS, PLEASE CHECK IN ADVANCE. If you must bring pets to a game, please keep them leashed and away from the players and other game spectators. Remember to clean up after your pet.

During the Game

While enthusiasm and cheering can be inspiring, and it is natural to get caught up in the emotion of the game, soccer spectators should take care to follow proper sideline etiquette.

- Cheer, don't coach. Avoid yelling specific instructions and issuing commands. This can be extremely confusing for a child and possibly contrary to the coach's instructions.
- Avoid running up and down the sidelines shouting. If you want to follow the action, make sure that you don't distract the players or block the view of other spectators.
- Keep some comments to yourself. Do not speak out to the referee or linesmen. Unless they are complimentary, do not direct comments to members of the opposition.
- Stay away from the goals. Standing behind the goal is prohibited.
- Stand, or sit, at least 3 to 5 yards back from the sidelines (touchlines).
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship by applauding exceptional moves by the opposition.

What is the EYSA Civil Behavior Policy?

Erie Youth Soccer Association conducts a developmental youth soccer program where players are expected to learn basic skills and the rules of the game. As a part of the program, players are also learning how to conduct themselves as responsible youth.

To that end, EYSA expects that only the most civil behavior will be practiced on the soccer field by players, parents, referees, coaches, other spectators and officials. It is the responsibility of each individual to ensure that they use a polite, courteous manner in their interaction with others and to follow the spirit as well as the letter of the EYSA rules. It is also the responsibility of the coach to remove one of his or her players from a game if the coach believes that the player's behavior is not meeting the standards.

A referee has the responsibility to speak to any player, coach or spectator if he or she believes that their behavior is inappropriate, and to eject any individual from the game should the warnings not be heeded. The EYSA field general or other EYSA official has the responsibility as well to monitor these behaviors and take appropriate action; including speaking to the referee if the official is not practicing civil behavior.

Please help us make this a wonderful soccer season for the players and their families...